

TRANSLATION OF AMENDMENT (OCT.21.2003)

UNDER ARTICLE 34 OF PCT

- We cancelled claims 1, 10 and 11.
- We amended claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 12.

CLAIMS

1. A containing case body for an object to be processed comprising:

a box case having a size capable of containing an open type of cassette that can hold a plurality of first objects to be processed and capable of containing a plurality of second objects to be processed, the second objects to be processed being larger than the first objects to be processed,

a supporting part provided at an inside wall surface of the box case, the supporting part being capable of supporting the second objects to be processed in a tier-like manner,

an open-close lid provided at an opening part of the box case in a removable and attachable manner, and

a positioning-engaging part provided at a bottom part of the box case in a removable and attachable manner,

wherein

the open-close lid is capable of sealing the box case, and

the positioning-engaging part is capable of engaging with a positioning member provided at a lower surface of a bottom part of the cassette to position the cassette.

2. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 1, wherein

a position of peripheral edges of the first objects to be processed on a side of the opening part when the cassette that holds the first objects to be processed is contained in the box case and a position of peripheral edges of the second objects to be processed on the side of the opening part when the second objects to be processed are contained in the box case substantially coincide with each other.

3. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

a first pop-out-preventing member is provided on an inside of the open-close lid for preventing that the first objects

to be processed pop out from the cassette when the cassette that holds the first objects to be processed is contained in the box case.

4. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 3, wherein

the first pop-out-preventing member is removable from and attachable to the open-close lid.

5. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

a second pop-out-preventing member is provided on an inside of the open-close lid for preventing that the second objects to be processed pop out from the box case when the second objects to be processed are contained in the box case.

6. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 5, wherein

the second pop-out-preventing member is removable from and attachable to the open-close lid.

7. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein

a cassette base platform is contained at a bottom part of the box case in a removable and attachable manner, and

the positioning-engaging part is provided on an upper surface of the cassette base platform.

8. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 7, wherein

a platform fixing jig is provided at a peripheral portion of the cassette base platform,

the platform fixing jig is capable of protruding from and withdrawing into the peripheral portion, and

the cassette base platform is adapted to be fixed in the box case when the platform fixing jig is pressed to an inside

wall of the box case.

9. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 8, wherein

the platform fixing jig is provided at each of three peripheral portions of the cassette base platform.

10. A containing case body for an object to be processed comprising:

a box case having a size capable of containing an open type of cassette that can hold a plurality of objects to be processed,

an open-close lid provided at an opening part of the box case in a removable and attachable manner, and

a positioning-engaging part provided at a bottom part of the box case,

wherein

the open-close lid is capable of sealing the box case, and

the positioning-engaging part is capable of engaging with a positioning member provided at a lower surface of a bottom part of the cassette to position the cassette.

11. A containing case body for an object to be processed according to claim 10, wherein

a pop-out-preventing member is provided on an inside of the open-close lid for preventing that the objects to be processed pop out from the cassette when the cassette that holds the objects to be processed is contained in the box case.

12. A processing system comprising

a case-body conveying area in which a containing case body according to any of claims 1 to 11 can be conveyed,

an object-to-be-processed conveying area that is filled with an inert-gas atmosphere or a clean-gas atmosphere,

a division wall that divides the case-body conveying area and the object-to-be-processed conveying area,

an opening formed at the division wall,

a stage on which the containing case body is placed in such a manner that the opening part of the containing case body faces the opening on a side of the case-body conveying area,

a load port provided in the case-body conveying area, capable of communicating with an outside area,

a stocker provided in the case-body conveying area, by which the containing case body can be temporarily stocked,

a case-body conveying mechanism that conveys the containing case body between the load port, the stocker and the stage,

an opening-closing mechanism that opens and closes the open-close lid of the containing case body when the containing case body is placed on the stage,

an object-to-be-processed boat provided in the object-to-be-processed conveying area, corresponding to a size of an object to be processed contained in the containing case body,

a processing container provided in the object-to-be-processed conveying area, capable of conducting a predetermined thermal process to the object to be processed,

a boat elevating mechanism that moves up and down the object-to-be-processed boat to convey the object-to-be-processed boat into and out from the processing container, and

an object-to-be-processed conveying mechanism that conveys the object to be processed between the object-to-be-processed boat and the containing case body placed on the stage.